

Agriultural Department.

CONDUCTED BY ALBERT CHAPMAN.

State Board of Agriculture at Johnson.

The capacious hall of the normal school at Johnson was well filled at the opening meeting of the Board of Agriculture, last week Tuesday afternoon. The larger portion of the audience being composed of the substantial farmers of that and neighboring towns who availed themselves of the somewhat thin but good sleighing to be present. G. S. Fasset, of the Board, opened the meeting and remarks were made open for social intercourse and general discussion of the topics presented. The members of the Board desired to impart knowledge and interchange thoughts with the farmers present, but do not come to teach them. He hoped they would feel that the meeting was their own.

Robert T. Christie was appointed president, and H. J. Johnson, secretary. An appropriate prayer was offered by Rev. Mr. Rattray, pastor of the Baptist society; after which a choir consisting of five ladies and two gentlemen, led by I. N. Pearl, with organ accompaniment, sang "America, our Glorious Land."

Vice-President Waterman spoke the "first words," remarking briefly on education as the great boon that nature has conferred, and that he who helps attain it is a public benefactor. He hoped the board would show how to improve our farms, both in the quantity they may be made to produce, as well as in the quality, to the end that Vermont may be the best state to emigrate to, and not from, as Stephen A. Douglas once said. He closed by bidding the board welcome.

A very valuable, smoothly-written and rapid paper was then read by Dr. H. W. Packer, of Morris-town, on "Fertilizers." Their connection with the Grass Crop and Dairy Products. He considered the saving and preparation of manures, remarking that he would add certain statistics after the discussion. If time permitted, he would read some large stories, and pretty effective ones. He spoke of the value of manure; of the modification of soils by light and heat, and how plants came to grow from the seed. Also of the help of crops, and improvement of the soil will ensure. Soils should be liberally treated. "The Lord loveth a cheerful giver." He considered the best manner of utilizing the liquid and solid manures which all farmers have at hand; none should go to waste. Liquid, properly treated, and applied as solids. He favored barn-cells, to protect from wind and rain and preserve the liquids. The better the feed of cattle the better is the residue after the milk, butter and cheese has been eliminated from the animal. The location of barns is highly important, that the drainage should not flow into the road or a stream, but run away and benefit the land of neighbors. Hay and pig-yards should be properly cared for. They may be made a source of great profit, or become nuisances. The farm-house and its surroundings should be made pleasant, thus preventing the boys from running away, and make the girls willing to follow their mothers. Train up roses, evergreens and shrubbery. The pig-sty, and the chicken and pig-pens. Use dry earth daily as a disinfectant, to abate a nuisance, and from this you will also have a fertilizer. Transfer it occasionally to the barn-yard, and change it to manure. When returning to the horse and cattle manure, do not forget the sheep droppings and hen-pen. Every farmer can have a deposit of guano on his premises, and pay any cost. No one can afford to purchase commercial fertilizers, and neglect what he has around him. By typhoid fever and diphtheria generated from decayed and decomposed substances in cellars and cess-pools, hundreds of lives are sacrificed. Let these be removed from the house to the barn-cellar. Farmers should not neglect their gardens, as essential as the earth, saw-dust and leaves, they may be used for bedding. Place weeds by themselves, or mix them with lime, as no farmer can afford to grow weeds. They are an exhaustless crop, and will grow without manure. After all these resources are exhausted, then perhaps farmers can afford to buy commercial fertilizers. The residue, if not used, is a waste. It is that barn-yard manure contains all the necessary ingredients, and the commercial fertilizers only a part. Moisture was also considered as an element in plant growth as essential as the soil. Failure of crops is not always attributable to the manure. Farm investments are as good as those in banks and railroads. The farmer has a better calling than others—an honorable calling, the earliest followed by man, and the foundation of all others. These were some of the leading points of Dr. Wakefield's instructive paper.

A discussion on "How can Vermont farmers realize better results from manure?" followed. J. H. Mead of West Rutland, spoke extemporaneously on the subject, and O. P. Paul of Powney, read a paper. Mr. Mead spoke of Dr. J. S. Spaulding, of Barre, cutting five crops of clover on his ground in a single season, the average growth being one hundred and eight inches. Also of persons seeding a bushel or more of herbs grass to the acre.

In the discussion that followed, this was considered by the speaker, as said they had suffered by seeding too much. Mr. Delano, of Elmore, thought half a bushel was ample, and others gave their experience to the same effect.

Mr. Paul's paper embraced many similar ideas to those suggested in Dr. Wakefield's, which have been already substantially given in the reports of previous meetings.

After a song by Mr. Tinkham, of Topsham, commencing "Noble Republic, happiest of Lands," Professor G. C. Snydell, of the Vermont University, spoke for the chemical standpoint. He said that there was a misapprehension as to them. Many think they are a substitute of barn-yard manure. They are only so in part, as they contain but a portion of the inorganic material that plants need to make them thrive. After considering at length their nature, he recommended their use in some cases in addition to barn-yard manure, in order to supply certain conditions wanting in soils which the latter would not. His plan was one now being experimented on in Connecticut and Vermont. Take a field of from ten to twelve square rods, divide it into strips and apply different fertilizers, such as nitrates, phosphates, potash, ammonia, etc., and also common manures. The chemical laboratory can aid in furnishing fertilizers properly tested. The only practical way is for every one to experiment on common farm soils. To be valuable, these experiments must be tried several years in different places. No general rules can be laid down as to when and where to apply them.

Mr. Hawes, of Morris-town, spoke strenuously for the fertilizers, exhibiting oats raised by them. He said he could grow good corn by putting the roots in a moistened sponge.

In the evening there were some four hundred and fifty ladies and gentlemen present, and after singing by the choir, Mr. T. J. Baker, of Johnson, read a lengthy and very originally conceived essay on "Women's Work," which is "never done." It is hurry, hurry, worry, worry. She sketched graphically the old lady with his plighting; then the school-girl overworked life, arriving at womanhood, the burdens of the housekeeper were pictured, such as family cooking, a farmer's wife's duties, garden work, cleaning, fruit preserving, canning, care of the sick, a baby to tie

one's hands, a few minutes spent in extending the last fashions, attending church-prayer meetings, singing school, practicing instrumental music to keep up one's knowledge of it, an occasional evening spent in popping corn, cultivating flowers to market, etc. With these duties, where one could progress in literature like Mrs. Stowe, one hundred and ninety-nine are retrograding. No man should ever marry a woman below him in intellect, but marry up. Thus while he is steadily progressing and she retrograding, the two will come together in time. Addressed the gentlemen, she said, "Wives, my dear sirs, work two hours to your own."

Man's work is from sun to sun, Woman's work is never done.

The only way woman's work can be completed is by its neglect. Labor-saving machines have done more for men than for women. She also spoke of the education of girls, women's expenses, how they have to get the little money they get, etc. The "good time coming" have so long waited for never comes. She referred to the 31st chapter of Proverbs to show what a woman should be.

O. G. Sturt, of Bakersfield, read a humorous paper on "Progressive Farming," in which he advised farmers to be pretty much all the things they should be, and concluded by saying, "If you fall to making farming pay in this way, conclude that nature does not work well in practice." The paper contained many excellent hits.

Mr. Tinkham then sang "A thousand a year," with good effect. The concluding exercise was a very able and instructive lecture on "The Laws of the Vegetable Kingdom," by Professor Geo. H. Perkins, of Vermont University. An abstract would not do it justice. He spoke of a squash, which was so arranged while growing as to indicate the weight it would lift, raising 5,000 pounds on the 31st of October after planting. He thought plants and flowers were healthy. They let light into the house, and also into the heart. The good people of Johnson and vicinity, evidently enjoyed the meetings. Wednesday forenoon was windy and blustering, with occasional flurries of snow, but this did not prevent the hall from being well filled, many coming from the surrounding towns. The members of the Board, with others from abroad, were hospitably quartered at private residences in the village, almost everybody hanging out their late-late shirts.

After the choir had sung a hymn, "Praise our Lord," Rev. C. A. Huntington, of Olynth, W. T., read an acceptable paper on "Emigration." He is now supplying the pulpit of the Congregational church in Johnson, in place of Rev. G. H. French, recently resigned, and has been a missionary in Washington Territory. He said that the Americans differ from nations in their unsettled life. With the exception, which gives home its chief value, is not the rule, but the exception. They are migratory. Few question the expediency of going from place to place to better their fortunes, but only the possibility of doing so. Could men out from their business when they feel like migrating elsewhere, there is no holding where this desire to migrate would end. The East and West are rival centers in the strife for population—the former to retain what they have, and the latter to improve their lot. Washington Territory is full of natural resources with a genial climate, but wants population to develop these and form society.

He went on to say, as in Vermont, a lady, thriving, industrious people. The speaker said he had half a mind to join the Vermont side in trying to keep its population from emigrating. You do not afford to spare these migratory people, while the West cannot do without them. Here is a Vermont farmer who has been toiling for twenty years. Perhaps he may have acquired a home laid up much money. He wants to sell out and go West, to better himself. He will find that the income of a farm there as here, comes from work. He will not find the same comfort there as here. If he does, they will cost more of him than he can pay. It is not of his life to acquire land and enlarge your farming operations. The West still wants what it has cost Vermont a century of toil to acquire. If you sacrifice these comforts, you cannot expect to get them there without long and patient toil. To doubt the power of the producing power of the land you have, will cost far less than to emigrate. Vermont, old as she is, is still in the ABC of her soil improvement. The work necessary to bring up a new farm in a country would double your own here at home. Dr. Wakefield, in the paper he read, said that water was a good fertilizer. My experience is that it is the best of all fertilizers. I don't want any other, if I can have it just when I want it. Irrigation is needed at the West as much as here. You cannot irrigate much here, as you can under-drain. To prevent the effects of drought, the soil must be able to dry on wet land. This has proved true in Illinois. Water is covered under the surface all the time, to nourish the roots by under-draining. Fruit could be raised in no other way. Where the summers are hot, although the winter are cold. Terracing is another way. The Scotch Highlanders understand this. The rocks are laid right up, are most valuable. These are made into walls on hill-sides, two feet high. The ground is ploughed to the wall, which prevents washing, and saves the manure put on against drought. Ten acres is a large farm in England, but every inch is made productive. All here complain that getting the crops is a good state to be in, but it is getting cheaper. The Crispus is not their own way always. People are starving because they won't work at the fair price. Returning to emigration, Mr. Huntington said the proportion of unsuccessful farmers in Illinois was quite as great as in Vermont. They have Illinois to go farther West, to acquire success; labor does it. Men who would fail here will succeed there. Causes. Thousands change from place to place, leading hard, up-hill lives. Let well enough alone. You can do better for your family here than in the West. Emigration will not cure the misfortunes of the unfortunate. For saying this the emigration societies will find a ready audience. As to the duty, but the Vermont farmer, in my opinion, runs a great risk in pulling stakes and migrating to a new country. The change should not be made if you have no chance for success here. Who can say that Vermont would have been, to what a degree of wealth and prosperity it might have already attained, had her people all remained at home? But the Vermont farmer, by the early emigration. It is also a good one to be born in. I was born in it, and my experience has taught me to say that it is a very good state to come back to.

Mr. Morse, of Cambridge, read a paper on "Fruit Culture." He considered the questions "Has it been raised in Lamotte county, is it now, and can it be raised there?" A great deal of fruit was raised here by the early settlers. The cause of its failure must be either in a change of climate, in the change of soil, or in the selection of trees. The difficulty, he thought, was in the two latter. For twenty-five years past it has been declining, until it is generally thought that it cannot be raised here. But the desirable fruits can be obtained here, if the proper conditions are complied with, and instead of importing we can export it. But it will require money, brain and perseverance. He described minutely his practice of selecting and setting trees. Would select seedlings of a year's growth, and should be no sprouts or bare branches. Fruit preservers want to form the top of the future tree.

Some let the spurs grow to get a large trunk. This he thought was a fatal error. He was shown the New York tree peddlers, for he once bought one and set one hundred trees, only fourteen of which were here. There were three causes. They proved to have been root-grafted, grown too rapidly, and the spurs allowed to grow until taken up. The dark nights in autumn were the most discouraging, when some people would not read the right commandment, but it is astonishing how well they can see to gather fruit. (Laughter.) Read all the authors on fruit culture, but blindly follow none. Compare with your own experience. Find what section of the country is written about. Do not pay less than a dollar for each tree. Trying to get cheap trees is a great reason why we have so many worthless ones. You cannot buy trees for fifty cents which cost a dollar to raise. A grower once said that they raised cheap trees because people would not buy them; would raise good ones if they could be convinced that it was the cheapest to buy them. Mr. Morse hoped this subject would be discussed at the next meeting of the Lamotte Horticultural Society.

Another paper on the same subject was read by H. J. Baker, of Enosburgh. He would avoid wet land, river-bottoms and select hill-sides. Clay soil is not natural. Before setting the land for corn. Would not set on inverted green-sward. Trees received in the fall should be carefully kept in the cellar, protected from mice. Transplant twenty-five feet one way and thirty the other, before the buds began to swell; nearer in gardens, perhaps. Dried trees may be buried under ground two or three days after being immersed in water, and they will swell and be good. Fasten to a stake when exposed to the wind. Males in setting with chip dust, which is used, if straw is used, cover with earth, to protect the roots from mice. Fence young trees against cattle. He gave receipts for grafting wax. Destroy the eggs of the bark louse in winter. Cultivate young trees several years. When bearing, leave the tree annually a light dressing of horse manure. Enriched wood is the principal cause of failure. October is best for pruning. Several trees named, and other rules given for selecting. Also the best kinds of crab apples.

The President, H. J. Johnson, in his own trees and shrubbery, and also as a pestiferous. There are good apple trees in Johnson from which to cut scions. Cut off a trunk four feet high and set them, and you will be astonished to see what they will bear. Trees can be raised here as well as a crop of calves.

The subject was discussed at length. Mr. Johnson, in place of Mr. French, raised in Lamotte county entirely. He had no doubt that Mr. Baker spent more than the entire profits of his farm in the orchard.

Mr. J. A. Manning, of Johnson, said fruit could be made profitable. Rev. Mr. Huntington thought the night might lead certain elements, like that in the Lamotte valley, where so much wheat was formerly raised. Professor Sayre said fruit could not be raised without proper food, any more than chickens.

Mr. Tinkham, joke of a new year, he was trying to raise, while Mr. Chapman, of Middlebury, said good fruit could be raised both on clay soil and in the Lamotte valley, and gave his experience. For anything he used grafting wax, made of three and one-half pounds of resin, and one pound each of turpentine, beeswax and crude turpentine.

Mr. Griswold, of Hyde-park, made excellent cider vinegar from crab apples. In the afternoon, G. S. Fasset, read the paper he gave at East Hardwick, on "Needs of the Dairy Industry," with a description of yellow butter.

Mr. Tinkham explained and exhibited five pound boxes he used for sending butter to Boston in the warmest of weather, which never failed. The boxes were made by Hope & Watson, of Burlington, at six dollars per hundred.

Mr. Fasset was paid for half an hour with the usual questions. Dr. Wakefield gave at length his experience as superintendent of the Reform School, at Monson, Mass., with his management of the crops and milk cows. It was substantially the same statement as that made at a meeting of the Dairywomen's Association at Burlington a few years ago.

After Mr. Tinkham had sung, with much effect, Burns' song, "A man's a man for a' that," R. G. Hill, of Elmore, read a paper on "Long Wool Sheep Husbandry." He spoke of the Cotswold as the most profitable, both for wool and mutton. They keep nearer home and fat more readily than others. They cannot be kept successfully in large flocks to rear in the Australian style, and hence there is no fear of the competition from that quarter, to which our other breeds are subject. Some of his sheep did not get twenty rods from the house in a pasture of one hundred acres. They are contented when shut up with enough to eat. Their meat is as good as chicken or turkey. He had cut five inches of fat on the ribs. The meat is as profitable as that of a hog or steer. Crossing other breeds with Cotswold bucks improves them.

A large audience attended the closing meeting in the evening. I was invited in interest, and enjoyed by Mr. Tinkham's singing, and considerable fun. Mr. Pearl, the leader of the choir, suffering from a bad cold, his choir was not present.

O. M. Tinkham, of Topsham, first spoke on "Farm Barns," illustrating by diagrams and describing several model barns in Vermont. Lyman Newton, of East Fairfield, read an excellent practical paper on "Cultivation of Grass," the great crop of Vermont. He gave rules for making and preserving hay, and concluded by advising to manure bonfirely, seed, and those made after that during the month will draw interest from the first day of the following month.

Interest will be credited to depositors at the rate of five per cent, per annum, on the first day of the following month. This interest will draw interest from the first day of the following month. This interest will draw interest from the first day of the following month. This interest will draw interest from the first day of the following month.

Mr. Tinkham said "I once knew a woman, a womanly maid, whose story was a testy old man, with much of being a good man, he gave 'Lanigan's Ball,' which brought down the house in a round of applause, and woke up a large crowd.

L. B. Sherrin, of Hyde-park, read an essay on "The Education of Farmers' Boys." He would have the good old days of the district school brought back. Sending children away to the villages tends to make them lose their interest in home and look on work as irksome. The swindling among public men and sources of evils are traceable to habits acquired in school-boy days. The remedy is to restore district schools; the gymnasiums are lumbago. Labor and study should be one and inseparable. Education is held up to the boy. He is taught to be like George Washington. It is hard to fill political positions by others than professional men. Sherrin had spoken a good many home truths, but he could not agree with him in all his positions. How shall we keep the boy on the farm, and then combine work and the time, necessary for intellectual pursuits? He presented a solved. Mr. Tinkham thought the boy estimating did not come from farmers themselves.

The closing speech of the evening was made by Hon. Alexis T. Smith, of New

Haven. He highly approved of these meetings, spoke of their advantages, and hoped the interest in them would deepen. He advised farmers to rise in its strength and its dignity and stand up and demand its rights. Those who have speculated in gold must be excused. Further encoaching must be expected on labor cannot be borne. It would cheat everybody's boys, not farmers' boys alone. The question will be, is he a man? He made a stirring appeal to the minds present to stand by the country and their integrity. He named Tremor W. Park as a candidate for the next governor. He touched on the country's finances, apostrophized the men who fought in the late war, spoke of education, and descended on skin-milk, calves and cheese, horses on the meadow, etc. He defended graded schools and universal education. All could hear every word of his speech, without difficulty. He several times convulsed the audience by humorous anecdotes. One told in confusion, was of a doctor who was asked in a case of child-birth. When he returned, he said, "I've had a call." "What success?" asked anxious inquirers. "First," said the doctor, "I lost the child, and I lost the mother, but I saved the old man!" Mr. Smith spoke nearly an hour, making one of his most powerful efforts.

H. J. Waterman moved a vote of thanks to the board and reporters, which passed by a standing vote unanimously. Mr. Chapman, for the board, returned thanks to the people of Johnson for their hospitality, attention, and the great interest displayed in the work of the board.

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